

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, a marked-up copy of the present specification that is attached hereto will be submitted for entry into the present application. Additionally, amendments to the claims are being requested together with entry of a replacement sheet containing Fig. 6.

In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment issued on May 3, 2007, the Examiner asserted that the response filed on March 12, 2007, was not compliant because amended paragraphs including markings indicating the changes were not included.

It is assumed that the Examiner was making reference to the substitute specification submitted together with the above-noted response. Applicant sincerely regrets that the substitute specification filed on March 12, 2007, did not contain accurate markings indicating both the deletions from the original specification as well as insertions to the original specification. Applicant thanks the Examiner for bringing this matter to his attention so that it could be corrected.

Accordingly, Applicant is attaching a copy of the substitute specification containing proper mark-ups of the changes therein. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the attached marked-up copy of the substitute specification, entry thereof and a withdrawal of the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment together with an action on the merits of the present application.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither the substitute specification attached to the response of March 12, 2007, nor the present properly marked-up copy hereof contains any new prohibited matter, and entry thereof is, accordingly, respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicant wishes to make of record a telephone interview conducted between Applicant's undersigned representative and Examiner Corrielus in charge of the present application. During the above-noted interview, the Examiner pointed out several additional informalities in the present application. For example, the Examiner pointed out several informalities in Fig. 6. Particularly, the Examiner asserted that some aspects of Fig. 6 were not consistent with the corresponding disclosure. The Examiner made particular reference to steps ST212, 215 and 216.

In response, Applicant is submitting a replacement sheet for Fig. 6 in which the above-noted informalities and inconsistencies have been eliminated.

Additionally, during the above-noted interview, the Examiner noted several language informalities in various of the claims. Applicant has, by the present response, amended the claims to eliminate these noted informalities.

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for taking the initiative and calling him with respect to these informalities and regrets that they were not able to be previously corrected.

Thus, Applicant thanks the Examiner for bringing these matters to his attention so that they could be corrected and respectfully requests entry of the hereincontained amendment, withdrawal of the Notice of Non-Complaint Amendment and an action on the merits, in due course. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Additionally, Applicant requests consideration of the amendments and remarks contained in the response filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 on March 12, 2007, together with reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending herein, in due course. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

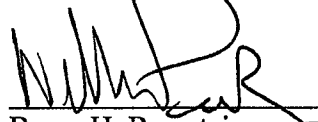
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to eliminate the informality noted in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has submitted a properly marked-up copy of the substitute specification originally filed on March 12, 2007. Applicant has additionally corrected various informalities brought to his attention by the Examiner in Fig. 6 of the drawings as well as in the language of the claims. Accordingly, the present application is now both in proper form for allowance as well as in proper condition for allowance. An action to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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